Are you using the right VHF marine radio channel?

Always LISTEN on 16
Make your initial call on 16 → THEN SWITCH!
Distress and safety messages are announced on channel 16 → ARE YOU LISTENING?

> Listen on channel 16 for distress calls when not using a working channel. Don't use it to chat.
> If no distress, urgency or safety traffic is in progress, call on channel 16, then switch to an appropriate working channel to keep channel 16 clear for emergencies.

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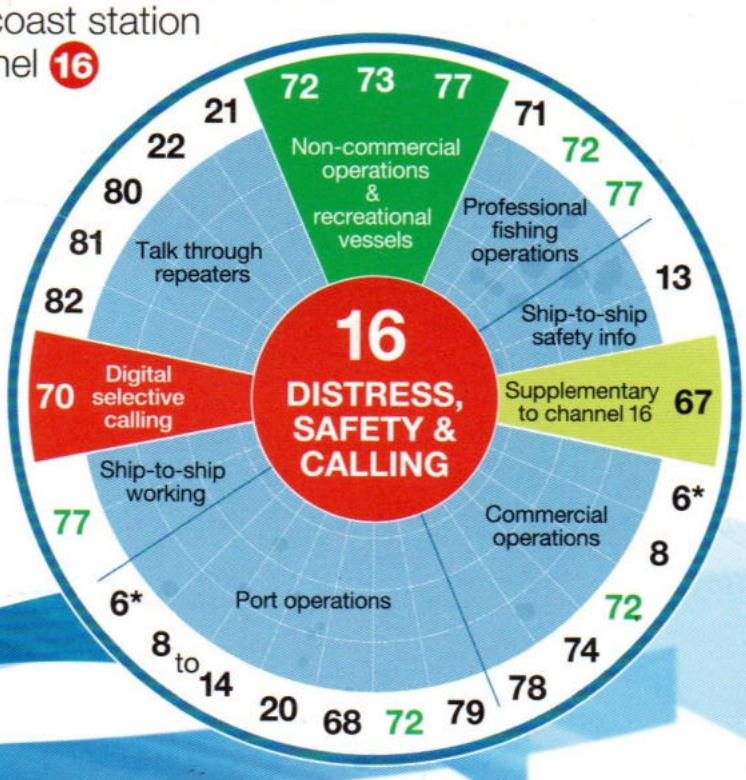
Alternatively, arrange a schedule for communications (time and channel) BEFORE you leave

Recreational boaters:
> Use channels **72**, **73** or **77** to call and work with other vessels
> Use channel **73** to call and work with a coast station
> When finished, resume listening on channel 16



MORE INFORMATION

- Australian Communications and Media Authority, marine radio information: www.acma.gov.au/vhfmarine
- Australian Maritime College, Marine Radio Operators Handbook: www.amc.edu.au/handbook
- Bureau of Meteorology, marine weather radio channels. Link to the website can be found at: www.acma.gov.au/vhfmarine
- State marine authorities are a useful source of information. Links to websites can be found at: www.acma.gov.au/vhfmarine

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*Also used for on-scene air/sea SAR operations.